'with one hand is taken away by the other; for what
"was conceded as a truth turns out to have been all
the time an illusion. Maya and cosmos and ourselves
are both real and unreal,—but the reality is an
unreal reality, real only to our ignorance, unreal
to any true knowledge.

It is difficult to see why, once any reality is
•conceded to ourselves and to the universe, it should
not be a true reality within its limits. It may be
•admitted that the manifestation must be on its
•surface a more restricted reality than the Manifested;
our universe is, we may say, one of the rhythms of
Brahman and not, except in its essential being, the
whole reality: but that is not a sufficient reason
for it to be set aside as unreal. It is no doubt so
felt by mind withdrawing from itself and its
structures: but this is only because the mind is an
instrument of Ignorance and, when it withdraws
from its constructions, from its ignorant and
imperfect picture of the universe, it is impelled to
regard them as nothing more than its own fictions
and formations, unfounded, unreal; the gulf between
its ignorance and the supreme Truth and Knowledge
disables it from discovering the true connections of

the transcendent Reality and the cosmic Reality.
In a higher status of consciousness the difficulty
disappears, the connection is established; the sense
of unreality recedes and a theory of illusion becomes
superfluous and inapplicable. It cannot be the
final truth that the Supreme Consciousness has no
regard upon the universe or that it regards it **as a**